THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The status of the referred bottling plants is as under:

Location	Capacity (TMTPA)	Expected date of completion
Sanad	66	Mechanically completed
Bhavnagar	44	July, 1997.
Palanpur	34	This plant has been allocated in the IX Plan.

(b) Yes, Sir. There are plans to set up 27 new LPG distributorships under 1994-96 marketing plan in the State of Gujarat. The advertisements for these locations have already been released.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Sale of Land

2808. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been cases of illegally selling of Gram Sabha land in Uttar Pradesh for the last couple of years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take in the matter to get back the Gram Sabha land to look the offending officials and the people responsible for selling the land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Panchayati Raj being a State subject, the details of day to day conduct of Panchayati Raj matters including sale of land are not maintained by this Ministry. However, no such cases of illegally selling of Gram Sabha land in Uttar Pradesh has been reported to this Ministry so far.

Oil Exploration

2809. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have proposed to offer tax-holidays to private companies investing in high risk exploration blocks;

(b) if so, whether the Government have imposed a ban which would restrict the total tax burden 10 to 20% on high risk oil exploration;

(c) if so, whether this is likely to be a part of the new exploration licensing policy; and

(d) if so, the time by which the policy is likely to be announced and the high risk block levels covered under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy announced recently, royalty will be charged at half the prevailing rate for offshore aeas for deep water areas beyond 400 metre bathymetry for the first 7 years after commencement of commercial production. The policy also envisages a tax holiday for seven years after commencement of commercial production for blocks in North-East Region.

(b) and (c) There is no such specific proposal under consideration of Government.

[Translation]

Link Roads

2810. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to connect every village by link roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the State-wise number of villages which have been connected by link roads so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The Government have written to all States and Union Territories to furnish information on the present status of village connectivity, physical and financial requirements for connecting the remaining unconnected villages, etc. with a view to accelerate the pace of construction of rural link roads for connecting villages.

(d) Information on State-wise number of villages with population of 1000 or more which have been connected by link roads by 31st March, 1996 is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise connectivity of Villages with population 1000 and above

(As on 31-3-1996)

States/U.Ts.	Total No. of villages	Total No. of villages connected*
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	13467	11647
2. Arunachal Pradesh	81	71
3. Assam	3719	3719